(b) if so, what is preventing the Railways to implement such norms recommended by various Railway Accident Enquiry Committees; and

(c) by when such guidelines/norms would be followed for safe travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. A public Interest Litigation has been filed against Railways in the Supreme Court alleging that adequatee attention is not paid by the Railways to measures for safety and modernization. The matter is subjudice and the Writ Petition is being heard by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) Of the earlier Railway Accident Enquiry Committees, the Railway Safety Review Committee-98 (Khanna Committee) is the latest and was required to review the implementation of recommendations of the earlier Committees also. "Views of Ministry of Railways" on the recommendations made in Part-I of the Report of Khanna Committee have been finalised and the details of its recommendations are given below:

Accepted	103
Partially accepted	28
Not Accepted	19
Total	150

"Views of Ministry of Railways" on 128 recommendations of Part-II of the report are presently under finalization.

Action has already been initiated to implement the accepted recommendations of Part-I of the report. Depending upon the resources and success of trails in some cases, the recommendations are implemented progressively.

To imptement one of the recommendations of Khanna Committee, a non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,.000 crores has been setup to wipe but arrears in renewal of over-aged assets within a fixed time frame of 6 years.

Unmanned railway crossings in Orissa

4032. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unmanned railway crossings in Orissa;

(b) the number of such unmanned railway crossings on which Government

propose to construct over-bridges/sub-ways during the current financial year; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to reduce the number of accidents on unmanned railway crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) There are 1134 unmanned level crossings in Orissa.

(b) Road over bridges/under bridges are constructed in lieu of busy level crossing where traffic density is one lakh or more TVUs on cost sharing basis otherwise all such work are considered on deposit/BOT terms after receiving firm proposal from the concerned State Government fulfilling all the preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. No such proposal was received from Orissa State during current financial year. Construction of 4 road over bridges sanctioned in earlier years is in various stages of planning and execution.

(c) The important fresh steps taken by the Government to prevent/reduce accidents at unmanned level crossings are listed below:—

1. On the road approaches, "Stop Boards" are provided on either side of the level crossings at suitable points within the railway boundary to warn the road users.

2. Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on road approaches to level crossing so that road vehicle drivers reduce their speed.

3. Whistle Board are provided on rail approach to level crossings for train drivers to whistle from the whistle board till such time as the train passes the level crossing gate.

4. Education of road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings by - publicity campaigns through media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio, newspaper advertisements and street plays.

5. Chief Secretaries of States have been requested to help in educating road users about safety precautions at level crossings and for exercising strict checks while issuing driving licences.

6. Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities are conducted to nam errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

7. Involvement of village Panchayats in the railwavs public awareness programmes.

8. Putting up level crossing safety posters at Village Panchayat Offices and at retail petrol pumps.

9. The unmanned level crossings are progressively being manned in a phased manner. Although the initial cost of manning of unmanned level crossings, has to be borne by the Road authority concerned and annual operating & maintenance cost is to be borne by the Railway. Considering the serious consequences of the accidents at unmanned level crossings. Railway has decided to man 4449 hazardous level crossings at its own cost in a period of 5 years.

Railways have also decided to man equal number of level crossing at its own cost as are manned through funds from MPLADS as per the recommendations of Hon'ble MPs.

Railway projects in Kerala

4033. SHRI NK. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be-pleased to state:

(a) how the project being implemented by the Railways in Kerala, for gauge conversion, doubling, multiple lines, new alignments, electrification, moderni sation of Signalling, are ongoing and the details thereof;

(b) how many among those are expected to be completed during the current year; and

(c) whether the work of any ongoing projects has been discontinued or delayed due to the financial crunch;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)*(a) to (c) A Statement is attached. *{See* below) Targets where ever fixed have been given. Projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.